

From: Sidereal Designs, Inc.
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/6/01 12:31pm
Subject: Comment on proposed anti-trust settlement

Dear Sirs:

As a professional web developer, I am not satisfied that the proposed settlement will in any way reduce the threat that Microsoft's practices continue to pose to my industry or to my own livelihood.

Microsoft's continued de facto ownership of the desktop permits them to use technical decisions to adversely and unfairly impact the industry to their own benefit.

To take an example, Microsoft's failure to include Java in the XP/IE6 package eliminates with one stroke the millions of web sites which have developed Java-based applications, and exerts enormous pressure on web site developers to abandon Java in favor of Microsoft alternatives. Since the Microsoft alternatives are viewed by most web developers as inferior to Java it forces them to accept non-preferred alternatives to the enrichment of Microsoft. The fact that an average user could spend twenty minutes downloading the Java engine in order to view Java-based web sites is a ridiculous defense.

Under the presently proposed settlement, this type of behavior is unchecked and can, given Microsoft's past performance, be interpreted an indicator of the direction in which they will force events in the future.

Thank you for your consideration.

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